

THE MAINE MASON

**Portland Children's
Dyslexia Center
Festival of Trees
at the Masonic Center
415 Congress Street**

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THE MAINE MASON

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Deadline for the next issue of The Maine Mason will be 15 March, 2023. All materials should be sent directly to the editor.

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by George P. Pulkkinen

Merry Christmas

If anyone's spirit had been lagging a bit in this season of inspired giving, one need only to have visited the Portland 2022 Festival of Trees on the ground floor of the Masonic Building at 415 Congress Street the last weekend in November and the first weekend in December.

Hundreds of men, women and youngsters took advantage of the opportunity to view, in awe, the more than thirty brightly decorated trees and perhaps win a tree and the thousands of dollars of prizes donated by public spirited individuals and organizations.

And at least equally important, thousands of dollars were raised to support the Portland Children's Dyslexia Center where children with dyslexia are tutored at no charge to the family.

The cover of this issue shows one view of the armory room where the main displays were exhibited.

Whether or not you had the opportunity to visit the Festival and get your shot of holiday inspiration, we at *The Maine Mason* wish all you brethren and your loved ones, a most Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years in the months to come.

Pictured below is another view of this year's fabulous Festival of Trees.



From the Grand East

Bro. Daniel E. Bartlett **Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

Over the past 6 months I have traveled around the state attending various lodge functions including District meetings, degree work and table lodges. I've spent time with the Widow's Sons, the Maine Masonic College, Anah and Kora Shriners, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay, Scottish and York Rite bodies and more. These gatherings all share a couple of things in common. The first of course is our fraternity. We are all connected by the same bond of Freemasonry that has consistently been the foundation of all we do. The second is simple "enthusiasm." It doesn't matter where I go or what group I'm with. Freemasons and their families are enthusiastic about their connection to their fraternity. They are enthusiastic about spending time with each other, and they are also enthusiastic about the excellent work they are doing to make their communities a better place.

One of the best things about enthusiasm is that it's a positive emotion and it's contagious! This is important because we are naturally wired to pay attention to negative emotions to keep us safe. We need to continually overcome the tendency to pay attention to the negative and focus on the positive, good feelings that enthusiasm brings. This is part of our successes as a fraternity. When one or two are enthusiastic about something, others want to be part of that and experience the obviously good feelings.

Make no mistake, we have much to be enthusiastic about all around our state. Sue accompanied me recently to a couple of District meetings, one in Caribou and one in Auburn. She has heard me talk about these meetings for several years but had not attended any. She remarked that after hearing some of the brethren talk about the good things their lodges were doing for themselves and their communities, it's clear there are many good things happening around Maine in small clusters. We hear negative news continually and as Sue said, if there are 100 Masons every 100 miles doing good things, that's a vastly different picture than some portray. One of her favorite quotes is "do the next right thing" and it's a fact we have Masons from Fort Kent to Lubec to Fryeburg to Kittery and everywhere in between who are enthusi-

astically making a positive difference by doing "the next right thing."

Our challenge is to carry that enthusiasm outward by our actions and talk about the good things we do. That does create an interest in others to want to be a part of our enthusiastic bunch. Whether it is clowning around with folks at a parade, riding motorcycles together, donating money to a local charity or giving a bunch of new bikes away at the elementary school, we need to be mindful that we represent Freemasonry in general. What a tribute to Masons the world over when someone in your community says, "those Masons are good guys and really make a difference."

We can accomplish these wonderfully charitable deeds because men get involved. They show up and get busy. Without you getting involved and helping we would be unable to make the impact we do. Consider this a call to action! The more Masons that are showing up, the more we do and the bigger impact we make. This is not just about giving money away to help those in need. This is about good men taking care of their communities and by our actions showing that civility is important. Good men who commit to striving for higher levels of civility in all their actions by practicing the tenets of our profession, meeting on the level, subduing our passions and acting upon the square.

Let's continue being enthusiastic and civil men. For those of you who haven't been involved for a while, consider this your "call to action" to get involved with your lodge. Don't just read these words and nod affirmatively that you should reach out to your lodge. Do it! If you need help reaching out, call the Grand Lodge office and we will get you connected. We can have great websites and social media pages and those all help get the word out but at the end of the day we need you to act and reach out! Come strengthen the bonds of fraternity with your brethren and help build stronger lodges, stronger Shrine units, stronger Widow's Sons chapters, stronger Scottish Rite Valleys, stronger York Rite Chapters, Councils and Commanderies, stronger Rainbow Assemblies and DeMolay Chapters.

There is a place for everyone to make this wonderful fraternity a true leader in building a better, civil, and enthusiastic world. Be part of the action!

Observations from our Grand Secretary

The holiday season is upon again this year. It always seems for me that things go into overdrive this time of year and time almost passes by quicker. I hope you are able to get together with your families and enjoy each other's company over the next two holidays.

This time of year is also busy for your Lodge Secretary! Make sure you offer him any support he needs to get the necessary tasks accomplished. Some things to keep in mind for the end of the year.

Per Capita is going from \$16.50 to \$17.50 January 1, 2023. With the assessments it totals \$20.50 per member. Make sure your dues for 2023 reflect accordingly and if necessary get a bylaw change submitted to increase them if your lodge desires to. Remember that any member that is still on your records as of midnight on December 31st will be charged to your lodge for per capita. It is important to look through your records and mark any deaths or suspension NPD's before then.

Make sure to follow the proper process as laid out in the constitution for NPD's. Your annual return will be available to generate and print on January 1st and you have until February 1st to get it post-marked and mailed in with payment to avoid a fine. As mentioned at many of the district meetings so far, Form 25a is not required this year. All of the necessary information from it has been rolled into form 1, so make sure that is properly filled out for your annual inspection with your District Deputy. Don't forget to fill out your Certificate of Election in Groupable once your officers have been elected and installed. There have been a few changes to this in Groupable this year including being able to select the year of the term that will be helpful to both Lodges and Grand Lodge.

Remember that the permissions for Groupable do not take effect until it's submitted and is approved by Grand Lodge in the system. If you have any new officers in the top 5 roles (Master, SW, JW, Treas, Sec), remember that they all have access and encourage them to use Groupable. You can also add any of your members as assistant secretary, read only or webmaster by having your Secretary do it or having the Master or Secretary email us at Grand Lodge.

As a relatively younger member of the Fraternity, I

continue to embrace technology and constantly evaluating how we do things to be more efficient both with time and money. I would ask you to consider taking this new year to explore using OLP (Our Lodge Page) for both your Lodges and Districts if you have not already. It is integrated with our database (Groupable). Every Lodge and District has its own page whether they know it or not. You can customize the look and feel of it, post news articles, upload files like meeting minutes, lodge histories, etc and also choose the privacy level of them to just your lodge members, all masons or public. Also consider using OLP as a communication tool for your lodges instead of always using a Groupable email. One of the advantages is that any news article or calendar event will show up in the weekly email that comes out on Tuesdays.

This will help keep your events and news top of your members minds with very little effort. You can also choose to announce it at anytime which will generate an email to all of your members. We are also working with the folks at Groupable to make some improvements to OLP in its look, feel and functionality so stay tuned for some great things with this platform. If you need any help with OLP for your Lodge or District please reach out to the office and we would be happy to help you.

Groupable will be launching a digital dues card by the first of the year. Although we have yet to recognize it as an official recognized method, it will give you an idea of what it could like if we did. Once launched I would encourage you to go check them out and offer any feedback about them as well as ways we can have them be one option for recognition in the future. I know being able to download them to your phone will be important as some lodges do not reside in good cell coverage areas.

I hope you and your family have a great holiday season. My wife and I love this time of year especially with our two young children. I am thankful for all of you and the great things you do for our fraternity. We remain ready to assist you as you approach a new year.

Fraternally,
Scott Walton
Grand Secretary

Maine Masonic Wives and Partners Update!... and a Little More. *(Oh no, it's her again!)*

Thank you to editor MW Pulkkinen for allowing me a few lines to let you all know how our group is doing. I am pleased to report that our group now has 89 members from all over the state.

My husband Dan (AKA MWGM!) has been announcing the group and how to join at each of the District Meetings that have been held so far. I am hoping to get our membership to 100 by the end of December. Although we are still 'finding our feet' in terms of what we do next I am encouraged and thankful for everyone who has taken the time to find us on Facebook and join. For those who have not yet joined *(Masons, show your wife/partner this magazine please!!)* just go to Maine Masonic Wives & Partners on Facebook and join us!

On another note, over the past couple of months I have had the opportunity to attend a few District Meetings. I confess that prior to this I had never attended one. I am pleased to report that after attending these meetings I have figured out how to save the world. Or more accurately, I have discovered that the world is already being saved.

In Danforth and Presque Isle I saw nearly one hundred good men and learned about all the good works they were doing in their community – and many were accompanied by equally good women who were supporting them. And then I went to Auburn where I saw another hundred good men and listened to all the good works they were doing in their community – and many of them were also accompanied by equally good women supporting and contributing to that good work. And a light bulb went off in my head.

If there are a hundred good men every hundred miles doing good work in their communities, accompanied by an equal number of good women supporting that effort, then the world is not as bad and negative as we are led to believe. Indeed, it is a pretty wonderful place and one significant reason is the work of the Masons and their wives and partners.

These men support education, food pantries, veterans' programs, children's programs and the list goes on and on...they help the disenfranchised and they are a

tremendous network of support for each other. So – next time you hear about how bad our world is...just smile and be proud of all you and your wife/partner are doing every day to help save the world one good work at a time.

Sue Lessard

First Lady 2022-2024

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Although my Masonic husband passed away several years ago, I have continued to receive his "The Maine Mason" regularly and read it to learn what might be going on in the fraternity.

"What the heck Is This Doing in The Maine Mason?" caught my eye and how nice it would have been to have had the described network of wives as friends sharing interests, experiences and knowledge. I cherish those friends from the Masonic circle and also the memories of both Masons and the wives who have passed on.

I don't travel much now, so even if it were offered on line it is one important connection.

Good luck in your efforts . . .

Sincerely,
M. Coolong

PS

"For a Masonic Widow" was an impressive service by Monument Lodge #96 in Houlton. Congratulations, guys, on a good tribute to a faithful member.

Masons Turn Out 'Big Time' for Veterans Organization

Two years ago Wor. Dan Abbott approached Paris Lodge #94 Master Stephen Cobbett with information about a group that he is involved with called Operation Reboot.

Operation Reboot, a non-profit group, focuses on getting veterans and LEOs out of the house and into nature, providing them healing through hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational activities by creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and brotherhood and giving veterans a sense of purpose again.

The two active Masons met with Dan Wait, President of Operation Reboot, and other members of the organization. Dan shared the success of the program and its vision for the future. The programs offered are free. All that needs to be done by participants is to obtain a proper license.

There is a new 100 acre compound in Byron, Maine which will have ADA compliance cabins and facilities in the near future. When this information was presented to the brethren of Paris Lodge they decided to get involved. In the spring of the year Wor. Stephen Cobbett had an idea to do an on-line fund raiser and invited other lodges to help. Masonic support for Operation Reboot was on its way.

Having worked a fundraiser in 2021 with Bro. Jonathan Fields of Tyrian Lodge #73 in Mechanic Falls, Cobbett shared the idea with him and they joined forces and developed a plan. They visited all eight lodges in the 16th district, all eight lodges in the 23rd and two lodges in the 20th. All 18 lodges were asked to help support and raise money and commit to using some of their lodge matching funds in a cooperative effort to make a large donation to Operation Reboot.

With the assistance of Susan Scacchi of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, an online



Left to right: Bro. Jon Fields, volunteer guide Abraham Bradeen, Dan and Nicole Waite, heads of Reboot, Wor. Dannie Abbott and Wor. Steve Cobbett.

fundraising page was created and the link was shared with all the Masons and lodges. Everyone was asked to share it with all their contacts. Lodges held fundraisers, dipping into their charity accounts and asking for donations. Together they raised more than \$19,500. With all 18 lodges involved applying for matching grants from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, they were able to make a combined donation of \$60,000 to Operation Reboot.

This hugely successful team effort was made possible by the involvement of the following lodges in the 16th District: Paris #94, Pythagorean #11, Oxford #18, Crooked River #152, Oriental #13, Mount Moriah #56, Mt. Tirem #132 and Delta #153. From the 20th District: Jefferson #100 and Evening Star #147, and from the 23rd District: Cumberland #12, Tyrian #73, Ashlar #105, Webster #164, Tranquil #29, Nezinscot #101 Rabboni #150 and Ancient Brothers #178.



Blue Mtn. Lodge Brethren offer treats to 'Horrorbles' and Good Witch alike

Blue Mt Lodge #67, Phillips, held its first "Trunk or Treat" in front of the Masonic lodge on Halloween night. The parents and kids of the community stopped by to get a variety of candy from the brethren. In the photo below is a young lady, Lauren Beedy, daughter of James and Briana Beedy. She left with a handful of candy and a smile on her face nearly as wide as the brim of her hat. The main street of Phillips was filled with families enjoying the night, socializing, trick or treating, and filling their pails with yummy candy. Blue Mtn. Lodge was proud to be a part of the event and looks to do it again next Halloween.



Two Busy Nights at Freeport Lodge #23



Brethren gathered from far and near on August 15th and again on November 19th in Freeport Lodge to witness and participate in the raising of two young men to the Sublime Degree. Two other factors they have in common: each is the grandson of a Past Grand Master of Maine, and each was raised by a team of 33rd Degree Masons. In the photo above, Brother Robert C. Landry, son of Brother Adam Landry and grandson of MW Brother R. Robert Landry, is pictured with the brethren who participated in his degree last August before he began studies at the University of Maine. The photo below shows Brother Jonathan Wilson, grandson of MW Brother Charles Ridlon, surrounded by the 33rd Degree Masons who attended and took part in his Third Degree on Saturday, November 19.



DECEMBER 2022



Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION

Newsletter

Have you seen this in your mailbox?

We all have
something to
give...

A friendly,
encouraging SMILE

A few moments of our
time to LISTEN
and LOVE



The Goal...

HEALTH

HOPE

HAPPINESS

for everyone!

Just in case you didn't open the envelope or maybe you opened it and set it aside to deal with later, consider this a friendly reminder. If you are able, please give.

Please consider making a donation to the Foundation. You can donate online at www.MaineMCF.org or you can send us a check. We hope we've made it easy enough. Checks can be made payable to MMCF and mailed to:

MMCF, PO Box 430, Holden ME 04429



It is much easier when we work together...

DID YOU KNOW... from April of 2021 to mid-November 2022, the Foundation has helped over **151** Maine Masons and their families through the Brotherhood and Relief Grant programs? Did you know that this financial assistance totaled over **\$183,000**? Did you know the Foundation has partnered with the Scottish Rite NMJ and York Rite to provide several of these grants? Did you know that often times the financial assistance is only part of the help provided?

The Foundation is able to accomplish so much more because of the efforts of local Lodges, whose members provide hours of physical labor - like a recent roof replacement crew led by your illustrious Deputy Grand Master, Don Pratt, or the many ramp installation crews that help provide patients (with limited mobility) the ability to recover and live in the comfort of their own homes. It is a simple equation, where the common denominator = generous people. And the greater the denominator the easier the solution.

2nd Annual MAC Golf Classic Update

We met some old friends and made some new ones. The weather cooperated for the most part, rain didn't start until all of the golfers were through the course. Yeah! We raised over \$35,000 and after expenses the net proceeds were roughly \$20,800 which allowed us to donate \$10,400 to The Children's Center and replenish the coffers for the Brotherhood Fund for that same amount.

We could not have done this without the help of all the volunteers, golfers and our generous sponsors! A special thank you to Ashley and April for all their help and well, we couldn't have done it without these two. DAVE & TONY rocked the 50/50 sales!

And another shout out and big thank you to HM Payson, our Tournament Sponsor, Darling's Chevrolet, Arundel Lodge #76, Rollies, Damon's Beverage, Stone Cove Catering and Bedard Pharmacy & Medical Supplies. Your support means a lot to us!



SPOTLIGHT...

FIVE MASONIC LODGES PARTNER WITH THE FOUNDATION TO HELP LOCAL YOUNG TEENS ATTEND A LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

A team effort...

Caribou Lodge
David A. Hooper Lodge
Fort Kent Lodge
Island Falls Lodge
Molunkus Lodge



Like so many of the wonderful things Masons do to support their communities, it all started with a phone call from a dedicated Mason. Dave Spooner, Mason and Scout Master (along with many other hats that he wears), reached out to the Foundation to see if we could help his Pamola Lodge #211 of the Order of the Arrow Scouts BSA troop raise the funds needed to attend the NOAC 2022 Conference and the rest is history. The troop made the trip and expressed their excitement and appreciation in some videos that have been posted on Facebook & Youtube. I encourage you to take a look if you have not seen them already.

visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P3gi8MqMcA>

17 Lodges turn \$9,300 into \$27,900

From early October to mid-November, we have seen 17 Lodges ramp up their giving to provide food and holiday gifts to those in need. Through 22 matching grants these Lodges provided almost \$28,000 to support their communities.

Baskahegan Lodge

Lynde Lodge

Mount Olivet Lodge (2)

Paris Lodge

Seminary Hill Daylight Lodge

Vassalboro Lodge

Kennebec Lodge (2)

Marine Lodge

Oriental Lodge (3)

Ralph J. Pollard Lodge

Tranquil Lodge

Webster Lodge

Keystone Lodge

Marsh River Lodge (2)

Oxford Lodge

Rural Lodge

Trinity Lodge

"Winter is coming" and all of these Lodges have committed funds and applied for matching grants to provide for food, holiday meals and gifts for families in need. Has your Lodge considered doing something? The Foundation is here to help you support your communities, especially now that we are heading into the winter.

Maybe you haven't noticed, but this issue is about **GIVING**
where you can and when you can.

It doesn't have to be just about the Benjahmins, your Bankroll, Bacon, the Big Ones, Bread, Bucks, C notes, Cabbage, Clams, Coin, Dead presidents, Dinero, Dough, Greenbacks, Loot, Moolah, Sawbucks, Shekels, Smackers (Smakahs since we are Mainers), or simply put cold, hard CASH.

The Foundation, **YOUR** Foundation needs your help. It can be as simple as you just talking to friends, co-workers and/or your extended family. Help us by spreading the word. Don't want to brag about yourself, your Lodge and all your good works? Talk about me, oops, I mean talk about the Foundation and its impact in your community and across Maine.

The Maine Mason Magazine is sent to roughly 16,500 people. What if everyone of those individuals (yup, I am talking to you) told just 2 friends about the Foundation and asked them to tell 2 friends.

$$16,500 \times 2 \times 2 = 66,000$$

*Now it feels a little like this issue is about **math** and giving, doesn't it?*

In a nutshell, please tell someone you know about the Foundation and its good works. How in partnership with the Masonic Lodges in Maine it has provided over \$1 million in the last year in pursuit of its mission...

Improving lives in Maine through charity and good works.

We are a team and the more team members, the more we can accomplish. Maybe I should have added the word "active"? The more **active** team members the more we can accomplish. All we ask is that you please think about what you can do. Be more active, help if you can.

Ask us about becoming a member of the *1820 Society* and/or the **MASTER ARCHITECT SOCIETY**. And look for more information in the next issue about our recently created **Acacia Benefactors Society** as we look to honor those donors that have given consistently and generously in recent years.

Contact **SUSAN SCACCHI** for more information at (603) 677-2436 (mobile)
or (207) 843-1086 (Grand Lodge office) or via email at Director@MaineMCF.org

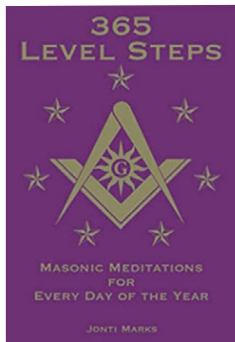
TOGETHER we can make a difference now and for future generations!

It's time to think about New Year's Resolutions: will you be a drone in the beehive of life for 2023? Not if you're reading!

"Make your Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge!"

Holiday gift giving ideas?

Personal growth? Here's a book that fills both categories. Great (and inexpensive) for gifting and a book that'll lift your spirit while you learn. Bro. Jonti Marks' *"365 Level Steps: Masonic Meditations for Every Day of the Year"* will



be both a daily reference as well as a thoughtful reminder of your kindness by the Brothers to whom you've gifted it. Entries are short enough to be read in a couple of minutes but memorable enough that you may - like me - winding up dog-eared page after page. Inspired learning from a thoughtful Masonic writer and it's about the same dimensions

as your ritual book, albeit about 50% thicker. Keep it handy on the bed stand, sofa, or car storage console. There's also a volume for Royal Arch Companions that Capitular Masons should pursue as well.

A book from Bro. Michael Schiavello, international television broadcaster and award-winning feature writer, was recommended here just two issues ago but this new work, *"Know Thyself: Using the Symbols of Freemasonry to Improve Your Life"* is one that's made for your personal growth in the new year. No abstract, dry tome, it's a book that you, like me, may read for a few pages and then go back to re-read a second or third time. If you enjoyed his *"Freemasonry's Hidden Brain Science"* you'll surely love this - and if you didn't grab that book then, get both now. You'll enjoy Masonry (and your life?) in 2023 so much more.

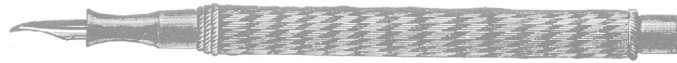
In the past, I've recommended books for improving your memory: here's another. Freemasonry teaches so many important life-lessons and with today's frantically-paced world, it's harder than ever to keep pace. *"A Mosaic Palace: Freemasonry and the Art of Memory"* by Martin Faulks is reasonably short but filled with ideas and ways to make you a better man!

A MOSAIC PALACE
Freemasonry and the
Art of Memory

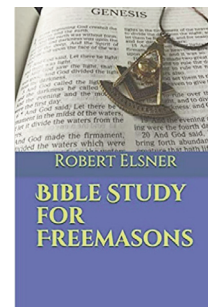


Martin Faulks

The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF

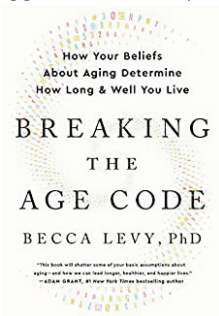
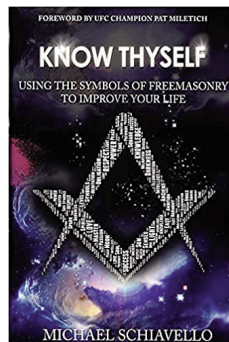
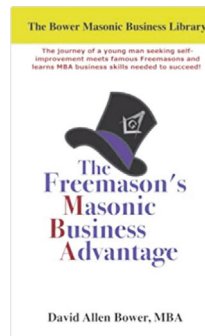


Religion doesn't have the strong following that it did even 25 years ago and yet we as Masons profess a belief in a Divine Creator to whom we should reverentially bow. Although hesitant to recommend a book that will appeal only to my Brethren who hold a certain belief set, it's the only one I'm familiar with that seeks to address the important topic of our fraternity's relation to a specific Holy Book. *"Bible Study for Freemasons"* by Bro. Robert Elsner will connect you to passages and explanations that many otherwise miss. A great gift for the Lodge Chaplain!



This next book is somewhat unique: it's a fictional tale of a young man seeking to improve himself in life and hoping to find a mentor. *"The Freemason's Masonic Business Advantage"* by David Allen Bower will open your eyes to the many advantages we as Masons have to teach others and thereby learn and grow ourselves. I smiled and nodded appreciatively throughout the book and could easily picture myself as both the inquirer and the mentor - but also seeing how I could improve with both moving forward. Read it!

This last recommendation I listened to as an audiobook rather than read. It WILL make you think but may also help you live longer. REALLY! *"Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live"* by Becca Levy, Ph.D. suggests that how you see yourself (rather than letting society determine how you should be seen) will determine your longevity and happiness in later life. A detailed but understandable hypothesis, it very much applies to our aging membership and could be a solution to your Brother's well-being - and your own too. Give it a listen - PLEASE!



I would love your suggestions and recommendations for things to read and review! Know of a Masonic author or book that deals with Freemasonry? Drop me a line at masonicreading@gmail.com Suggestions are gratefully encouraged!

Crooked River Lodge #152 Helps Otisfield School and Students

Crooked River Lodge #152 in Harrison, as part of its commitment to support the community, works with the staff at Otisfield Community School, grades K-6, to provide assistance to students and their families in need. The lodge donates Christmas gifts, heating oil, clothes and food, and purchases supplies and equipment for the teachers. This year school staff asked the lodge for picnic tables to enable outdoor learning, and wanted to renew the Bikes for Books program to encourage students to read over the summer break.

Lodge members got busy and built 10 tables, painting them purple and gray, the school colors. Materials for the tables were donated by Hancock Lumber and Bancroft Construction Co. Remaining expenses were paid for through a grant from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation. Brethren completed and delivered the tables this past Spring.

Then in September, Master Dennis Michaud and members of Crooked River Lodge purchased a bicycle for a boy and a girl in each grade for the Bikes for Books program. Bikes were presented to students at a school assembly. The lodge raised money for the bikes with its traditional and well-known summertime lemonsade stand and a two-for-one matching



Winning students with their new bikes.

grant from the Charitable Foundation. One little girl who got a new bike ran up and hugged one of the brothers. Her reaction to receiving the gift, as well as those other kids who needed a bike, reminded Crooked River's brothers why their charitable work is so important.



Lodge Master Dennis Michaud and Wor. Bro. Hobie Denison present bikes to happy students.



Otisfield Community School students enjoying their new tables.

At right: Brothers Leroy Edwards, Hobie Denison, Brian Levasseur and Michael Denison take a break after delivering the picnic tables.



VETERANS DAY



By Steve Edmondson
Village Lodge #26

When I was young, I asked my father, a twenty-year Navy Veteran who served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, about the significance of Veterans Day and why it was celebrated on November 11. His reply was succinct; The 11th Hour on the 11th Day on the 11th Month. When I pressed him for more, he said this marked the end of hostilities and the recognized end of WW I.

Initially called Armistice Day, it was later changed to Veterans Day to recognize the sacrifices of all who served. Today, all of November has taken on the feeling of recognition for those who served in both times of war and during peacetime.

VW Brother Peter Warner of Village Lodge #26 of Bowdoinham visited a lodge in Pennsylvania several years ago during the month of November as it held a recognition ceremony for veterans. Being a veteran himself, Brother Warner pitched the idea to Village Lodge as a way to give back to the community. With overwhelming support, the lodge decided to host its first Veterans' Recognition Celebration.

At the November Stated Meeting, Village Lodge began what is hoped will be an annual event of its own in recognizing veterans of our Armed Forces. Members of the lodge were encouraged to invite a veteran to the lodge. Following a brief business meeting, brethren retired to the dining hall for a meal, brotherhood and recognition.

Lodge members who served in the military in attendance were VW Peter Warner, 50-year member Clayton Grimm, WB William Stackpole, WB Jim McGee and SW Cory Vintinner.

Guests of the Lodge recognized for their service were Thomas Sutherland, Elwood Braun, Gary Cornwell, Harold Averill and Paul Adams.

It is anticipated Village Lodge will make this event a regular occurrence, not only to recognize those who served but as an introduction to Freemasonry for those who may consider the Brotherhood as a path to give back to their community.



Riding the Line

Jef H. "Wyzyrd" HamLin

In an earlier issue, you will find a tribute to Brother Don "Wrench" Charette. After the funeral, my son, Jon, was driving us home and made the somewhat solemn statement, "I now have a whole new appreciation for those that ride the line". The term "ride the line" is an informal reference to the riders who ride closest to the center line when riding in a staggered formation. They are sometimes the shield between oncoming traffic and the riders behind them. As I am often that rider, especially when it is just my son and I riding, I sort of felt this was, in some small way, directed to me as well as a simple reflection.

His statement got me thinking about all the other Brethren in our great fraternity who "ride the line" every day. Within our ranks we can be proud to count an unusually high percentage of law enforcement, firefighters, military, doctors, nurses, EMTs, and many others who stand between us and harm. During times of great danger, these are people who rush in as everyone else is running away. They are people who show up because they are needed. They are not fearless, but rather courageous, doing what needs to be done despite their fear. They don't do what they do because they don't worry about their family and friends, but because they do. And, their devotion is not confined to those they know, but also to those they do not.

Those that "ride the line" do so because it is in their nature to give and, as Masons, we share this with them. So, to those who ride the line every day, thank you and may God be with you every moment. Please know that while not all of us can do what you do, like the bikers in that formation, we are with you, behind you, support you, and appreciate you more than we can possibly convey.



As Master of Buxton Lodge #115, Wor. Matthew Hall had the pleasure of presenting his father, Wor. Stanley F Hall, with his 60 year star. Stanley Hall was raised in Charity Lodge, Cambridge MA in Dec. 1961 and was Master of Charity Lodge in 1969. The family goes back to the 1800s in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut Masonry.□





Dresden Lodge donated \$750 to the Bridge Charitable Trust to help them provide Christmas gifts and warm clothes to local families. The lodge was able to do this with a Community Betterment grant from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation. Pictured left to right: Fletch Atkinson, Josh Atkinson, Kevin Campbell, Lodge Master Jeff Pierce, Bridge Trustees Sherry Moody, Robin Rushlau, and Jeannine Clark.

The Oath

By Wor. Michael G. Hopkins, York No. 22

(a Parable)

There once was a man troubled in his mind. He swore that if his problems were resolved he would sell his house and give all the money from the sale to the poor.

In time his problems were solved and he realized that the time had come to redeem his oath. However, he didn't want to give away all that money so he thought of a way out.

He put the house up for sale for one silver piece. Included with the house was a cat. The price for the cat was ten thousand pieces of silver.

Someone bought the house and the cat. The man selling the house gave one piece of silver to the poor and pocketed the rest for himself.

Many people's minds work like this. They profess a firm and steadfast resolution to follow a certain teaching or moral path; but later when convenient to themselves they interpret their relationship to it to their own advantage. Until they gain the fortitude to overcome this tendency by guided training they cannot learn at all.

It seems unclear whether the parable above describes equivocation or secret evasion of mind. Surely when we make our New Year's resolutions to cut down on chocolate or whiskey we actually intend to: at least the first few times we do it. Later we may learn the extent to which we can resist that drink or that candy bar. So if not secret evasion at the time the oath is made, then self-deception. We might well benefit from contemplating the difference. As Polonius says to his son Laertes in Hamlet: 'This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.'

The above story about the house and the cat is part of the oral tradition of the Chishti Order of a school of mystic Sufis of Sunni Islam in India. That Order dates from the 12th Century. The version above, freely edited by me, is related in Tales of the Dervishes by Idries Shah (Penguin, 1970)—M.Hopkins

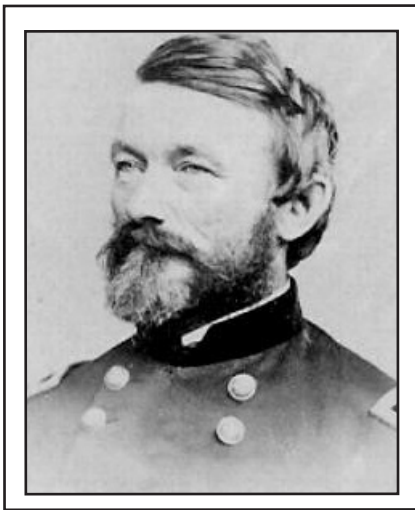
Ashlar Lodge and the American Civil War

by Wor. Brother Steven E. Peterson

In the Fall of 1860, a group of Masons living in Lewiston petitioned the Grand Lodge of Maine to form Ashlar Lodge. While Abraham Lincoln was being elected as President of the United States, these brethren received their Dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Maine and initiated their first member on Christmas Eve of 1860. As Southern States seceded from the Union, Ashlar Lodge continued to meet and establish the new lodge at the DeWitt House in Lewiston. On May 9, 1861, Ashlar Lodge was granted its Charter. On September 11, 1861, Most Wor. Bro. Josiah H. Drummond constituted Ashlar Lodge No. 105 and installed the lodge's appointed officers, the event being held at Central Hall in Lewiston.

Four of their charter members were called to the rally cry to help defend the Union from the Southern Rebellion.

Senior Deacon, Bro. Nathaniel J. Jackson, who was the Captain of the Lewiston Light Infantry

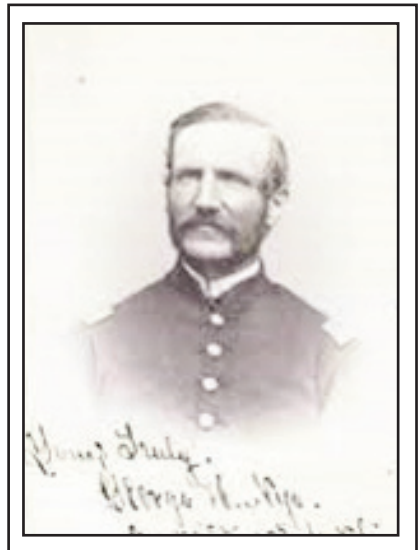


General Nathaniel J. Jackson

Militia Company prior to the War. His first command was the Colonel of the 1st Maine Regiment, a 90 day Regiment. Bro. Jackson then became the Colonel of the 5th Maine Reg't. in the Fall of 1862 and later promoted to Brigadier General in the XII Corp in the Army of the Potomac. During the Winter of 1864, he became a Division Commander in the XX Corp, Army of Georgia under General William T. Sherman. Bro. Jackson was wounded four times during the War. Gen. Jackson mustered out of service on August 24, 1865. Died in Jamestown, NY on April 21, 1892 and is buried in Newburyport, MA, the town where he was born.

Junior Steward, Bro. George H. Nye, who was a Lieutenant in the Lewiston Light Infantry Militia. He enlisted as a Private in the 1st Maine Reg't and was quickly promoted to Lieutenant. When the 1st Maine was mustered out of service, he then accepted a commission as Captain with the 10th Maine Reg't, along with most of the original members of the 1st Maine.

Bro. Nye was promoted to Major then to Colonel of the 29th Maine Reg't in the Winter of 1864. In October of 1864, Bro. Nye was brevetted to Brigadier General after being wounded during the Battle of Cedar Creek when a Minnie ball struck his mouth, fracturing his upper jaw and loosing five teeth. During his lengthy recovery, he was brevetted in March 1865 to Major General for his meritorious during the War. Bro. Nye passed away on October 22, 1908 in Roxbury, Mass. He is believed to be the only soldier in the Civil War to enter as a Private and rise to the rank of Major General in the Union Army.



General George H. Nye

Chaplain, Bro Uriah Balkham, who was the Pastor of Pine Street Congregational Church in Lewiston. After three years of the War, he finally decided to join the cause and took a sabbatical and petitioned the Governor for a commission in a Maine Reg't. He became the Regimental Chaplain of the decimated 16th Maine in 1864. Once in service, Bro.

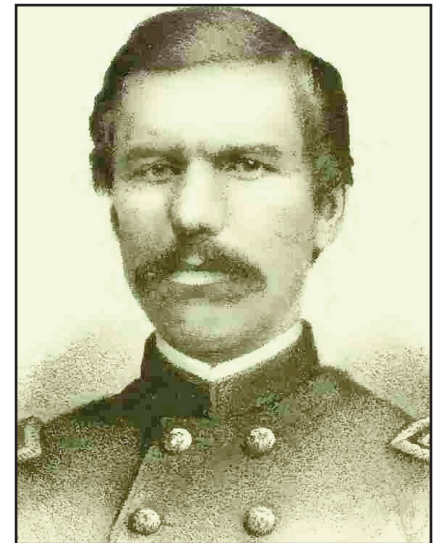
Balkham suffered from a number of ailments and unsuccessfully petitioned his commanding officers to take sick leave. Bro. Balkham survived the War and returned to his former position at Pine Street Congo and taught at Bates College. On the morning of March 4, 1874 while riding his horse on his way to teach a class, his horse was spooked and he was thrown from it and broke his neck. Ashlar Lodge performed a Masonic Funeral Service on March 6th and he is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Lewiston.



Reverend Uriah Balkham

Junior Deacon, Bro. William Knowlton, Jr. was also a Lieutenant of the Lewiston Light Infantry, which formed the nucleus of Co. F of the First Maine Infantry Regiment. Bro. Knowlton served as a Captain in the Tenth Maine and, at the time of his death, was a Major in the 29th Maine Reg't. Bro. Knowlton was Mortally Wounded during the Battle of Winchester on September 19, 1864 and succumbed to his wounds the next day.

His body was then conveyed back to Lewiston, where a Masonic Funeral Service was held at his graveside in Riverside Cemetery on December 27, 1864.



Major William Knowlton Jr.
Mortally Wounded at the Third Battle of Winchester on Sept. 19, 1864

This excerpt is from Maj. John M. Gould's *History of First-Tenth-Twenty-ninth Maine Regiment* regarding Bro. Knowlton's premonition of his death. *"While the regiment was halting near the mill the Captain noticed that the Major looked dejected, and as he was usually so thoroughly "at home" in battle, he asked the Major if he was sick, and received "No," for an answer. Shortly after the Major called Capts. Turner and Whitmarsh, the two ranking captains present, and told them to keep their eyes on the regiment, and not be too much absorbed with their own particular companies. The two captains tried to cheer the Major's spirits, but did not succeed. This premonition did not affect his judgement nor his action. He was cool and calm as ever; neither disturbed by the rout of the 2nd division nor elated at the success of the 1st. Whatever grief the prospect of death may have occasioned within himself, nothing came to the surface for the men to see."*

This is the account of him being mortally wounded which is also from Gould's: *"Shortly after opening fire, and when it was fully shown that the rebels were checked, they were reinforced by a long line of infantry and some guns. This force came from the woods, beyond which Grover's first line had been roughly handled, and advanced as far as the fence, where the most of the enemy had previously taken refuge, and for a while their fire was extremely galling. It was just after this reinforcement that Major Knowlton was shot. He noticed the long line and told us to fire at it, and was almost instantly hit himself, his half raised body being a better target than the majority of the men."*

Ashlar Lodge was born on the eve of the American Civil War and our members rose to defend our Country, as many of our Brethren have done for the past one hundred and sixty-two years.



An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

The College Briefly...

Our name inspires us to a 'higher educational calling.' We are not a bricks and mortar school but a "Temple of Knowledge," offering a growing variety of learning opportunities in various modalities.

We believe that Freemasonry is relevant in society today, helping to create a continuum of knowledge for those who are interested in personal enrichment.

Masonic ritual exhorts us to broaden our knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Thus, our programs include topics of interest to anyone with an inquisitive mind: ethics, astronomy, logic, public speaking and more. We have molded the Maine Masonic College on the best features of not only traditional and modern Masonic-oriented education but also "senior college" and lifelong learning endeavors.

In addition, we are developing audio and video material along with reading lists and more. At the Maine Masonic College, we encourage your input, your recommendations and - most of all - your...

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ENTABLATURE

Whole Number 43

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Winter 2022



#37 The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.

In Masonic ritual we learn that it was geometry that enabled man to discover the "...dimensions of the world and all things therein contained". But when was the first time that man actually did this?? In my Lodge we have a map of the State of Maine from around 1820 by our first Lodge Master, Moses Greenleaf. It is amazingly accurate. This is even more impressive when you think that back then they had no satellites and no computers. They had transits, levels, rods and chains (not even tape measures but literal chains made of heavy links!). They also had to walk everywhere in order to measure the land. They waited until winter to measure the frozen lakes and ponds by walking across the ice. But when was the first time someone actually measured the circumference of the earth itself?? 1560? 1800? 1960? No. It was actually before Christ was born. This edition of the Minutes is about the Greek mathematician, Eratosthenes, who devised an experiment that gave us the first idea of how big the Earth really is.

Eratosthenes was born in the Greek colony Cyrene, now the city of Shahhat, Libya. As a young man, he traveled to Athens to pursue his studies. He returned to Cyrene and made such a name for himself in scholarly endeavors that the Greek ruler of Egypt brought him to Alexandria to tutor his son. Eratosthenes was a chief librarian for the famous library in Alexander. Eratosthenes lived to be about 82 years old.

Eratosthenes may have been the first to use the word *geography*. He invented a system of longitude and latitude and made a map of the known world. This is used in the MMC course Vitruvius.

His most lasting achievement was his remarkably accurate calculation of the Earth's circumference (the distance around a circle or sphere). He computed this by using simple geometry and trigonometry and by recognizing Earth as a sphere in space. Most Greek scholars by the time of Aristotle (384–322 BCE) agreed that Earth was a sphere, but none knew how big it was.

How did Greek scholars know the Earth was a sphere? They observed that ships disappeared over the horizon while their masts were still visible. They saw the curved shadow of the Earth on the Moon during lunar eclipses. And they noticed the chang-

Continued on Following Page

Old Builders Lodge *Continued*

ing positions of the stars in the sky.

How did he do it? He heard about a famous well in the Egyptian city of Swenet (now known as Aswan), on the Nile River. At noon on the summer solstice (between June 20 and June 22) — the Sun's rays shone straight down into the deep pit. They illuminated only the water at the bottom, not the sides of the well as on other days, proving that the Sun was directly overhead. (This well was located very close to the Tropic of Cancer, 23.5 degrees north, the northernmost latitude at which the Sun is ever directly overhead at noon.)

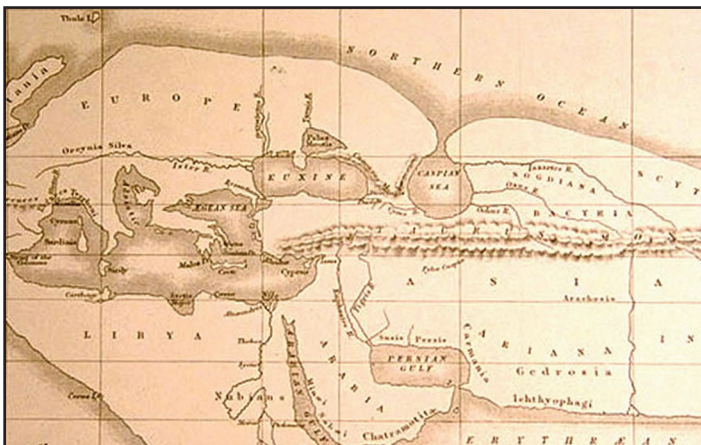
Eratosthenes erected a pole in Alexandria, and on the summer solstice he observed that it cast a shadow, proving that the Sun was not directly overhead but slightly south. Recognizing the curvature of the Earth and knowing the distance between the two cities enabled Eratosthenes to calculate the planet's circumference.

Eratosthenes could measure the angle of the Sun's rays off the vertical by dividing the length of the leg opposite the angle (the length of the shadow) by the leg adjacent to the angle (the height of the pole). This gave him an angle of 7.12 degrees. He knew that the circumference of Earth constituted a circle of 360 degrees, so 7.12 (or 7.2, to divide 360 evenly by 50) degrees would be about one-fiftieth of the circumference. He also knew the approximate distance between Alexandria and Syene, so he could set up this equation.

$$\frac{360 \text{ degrees}}{7.2 \text{ degrees}} = \frac{\text{Circumference of the Earth}}{\text{Distance from Alexandria to Cyene}}$$

Eratosthenes estimated the distance from Alexandria to Syene as 5,000 stadia, or about 500 miles. He made this estimation from the time it took walkers, who were trained to measure distances by taking regular strides, to trek between the cities. By solving the equation, he calculated a circumference of 250,000 stadia, or 25,000 miles. The actual Earth's circumference is 24,860 miles.

A century after Eratosthenes, the Greek astronomer Posidonius of Rhodes (c. 135–51 BCE) calculated the Earth's circumference. His first calculations came out almost exactly correct, but he revised the distance between Rhodes and Alexandria, which resulted in a number comparable to about 18,000 miles, some 28 percent smaller than the actual circumference. Ptolemy reported the calculations of Posidonius instead of those of Eratosthenes, and it was Ptolemy's writings that found their way to Christopher Columbus. If Ptolemy had used Eratosthenes's larger, more accurate figure for Earth's circumference, Columbus might never have sailed west!



A reconstruction of
Eratosthenes' c. 194 BCE map of
the world, from E.H. Bunbury's
1883 *A History of Ancient
Geography among the Greeks
and Romans from the Earliest
Ages till the Fall of the Roman
Empire*, public domain



MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE COURSES

In its continuing effort to offer "More Light In Masonry," the Regents of the Maine Masonic College announce the following course offering. As with all College offerings, it is designed to provide brethren the opportunity to expand their vision of Freemasonry and its principles. Whether you are on the path to a Masonic College Diploma or simply want to be a more enlightened Mason, these programs are for you. As the shorter days of winter come upon us, these offerings of the Maine Masonic College will add light.

January 3, 2023. Critical Thinking/ Intro to Maine Masonic College.

This course will be offered at the Stated Meeting of Acacia Lodge #121 in Durham.

Instructors: Brian Ellis and Don McDougal

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Saco Lodge Golf Tourney Funds Bikes for Books Program

By RW Bro. Mike Tremblay

On October 17, Saco Lodge #9 held its 4th Annual Golf Tournament to raise money for the Bikes for Books Program that supports students' reading efforts at C.K. Burns, Fairfield and Young Schools in Saco.

The day started with a dense fog blanketing the beautiful Dune Grass Golf Course in Old Orchard Beach, but as the 16 teams hit the links the thick gray began to lift.

Prescott Metal was the major sponsor for the event, along with Bounce. They were joined by many local businesses and members who took on the responsibility of being hole sponsors.

Event Coordinator Brother Trey Fitzpatrick came up with the idea of contacting Dixon Golf, an organization that came through with its fund raising skills.

The Silent Auction item created much interest. A hockey stick and autographed picture of Biddeford native Brian Demoulin, a Stanley Cup winner with the NHL Pittsburgh Penguins, was the much coveted prize.

The day ended with a great lunch and awards presentation, and many long-lasting memories of fellowship and brotherly love. Many thanks to the membership committee and all who participated. It was one more way that Saco Lodge Masons celebrated 220 years of Masonry in Maine.



Saco Lodge Master Wor. Justin Galipeau, Hole Sponsor and player Brian Cloutier and Event Organizer Bro. Trey Fitzpatrick.



Wor. Andy Nightengale, Wor. Steve Polley, RW Scott Whytock and Bro. Sheldon Nightengale

Camp Post Card: an experience for Young Mainers

Camp Post Card is for 5th and 6th graders in the state of Maine. Paris Lodge #94 got involved several years ago supporting Camp Post Card by raising funds to help send kids to this week long summer camp at no cost to them or their families. The camp includes swimming, fishing, boating, arts, crafts, rock climbing, paracording, gaga pits and many other games and activities for the kids.

The counselors all are either police officers, state police, sheriff deputies, fire fighters, or EMS personnel, and they come from all over the state of Maine. It is from these counselors that the kids get to see emergency responders in a different light. They work and play with the volunteer first responders all week long, getting to know them as real people.

The kids are picked by the School Counselors, School Resource Officers, and Volunteers of America. The Maine Sheriff's Association supports and works very closely with Volunteers of America in originating and putting on the camp. It is a lot of work, but seeing the results on the faces of all the kids is the greatest feeling anyone can ever have. Some of the kids who attend have never before been to a summer camp. This is the first experience where they can just come and be kids and have fun with others and not worry about their next meal or their home life. They come to camp with many different feelings and experiences but as the days go by they learn how to be with others and make positive connections. This is when the big smiles, hugs and thanks start to appear.

Paris Lodge #94 committee chair is Wor. Hartley Mowatt. This year, with the assistance of other lodge members, he led a successful effort to get all eight lodges of the 16th district involved. With the assistance of Pythagorean Lodge #11, Oriental Lodge #13, Oxford Lodge #18, Mount Moriah Lodge #56, Mt. Tirem Lodge #132, Crooked River Lodge #152, Delta Lodge #153, Paris Lodge #94 and the assistance of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, a total \$10,500 was raised. A special thank you to Daddy O's Restaurant in Oxford for all of their support and assistance.

This is what being a Mason is all about; brotherly love and friendship and lending a helping hand. This was a great year and a huge thank you to everyone involved and looking forward to next year.



Wor. Skip Mowatt with three of the more than 90 camp-goers this year.



ALLEGORY

Our Ritual Tucks Away Complex Issues Within Simple Stories

by Brother Donald McDougal

OUR MASONIC BROTHERHOOD'S Ritual outlines a System of Morality, Veiled in Allegory, Portrayed by Symbols

In a July 12 2022 Blog, Michelle Maiellaro defines allegory as a technique "that distills complex ideas into a simple story. "Allegories are often used to disguise social & political remarks and criticism. They are also used by writers who use a relatively simple story to convey to the reader a deeper story of morality and philosophy for self-development.

The writers of our Masonic Ritual also employed that writing technique, The most well-known is in the second part of the Master Mason Degree. That section is often referred to as a retelling of the Isis & Osiris story which comes down to us from ancient Egyptian Mythology. In that tale Seth, the brother of the Pharaoh Osiris, is jealous of the power and popularity of Osiris. He plots and kills Osiris then dumps the body of Osiris into the Nile, in a box. He returns late that night, finds the body disturbed by Isis. In anger, he chops his brother's body into fourteen pieces and then scatters them around Egypt. Isis, wife of Osiris, changes into a huge bird and with hawk-eyed vision flies around and finds all the pieces, magically sews them together, and on the Full Moon resurrects him. However, he can't stay among the living. Rather, he must leave and become Pharaoh in the Afterworld.

However, the discovery of the body in our ritual is not very similar to that account. Instead, it is similar to the discovery related in Virgil's (70 BC -19 BC) Book Six of the Aeneid. There Aeneas is searching for his father's body. He goes to the Temple of Apollo and meets Sybil a Priestess who was a guide to the underworld. Her instructions to find the body are to find a particular easily picked branch "*And when by will of Heaven thou findest it, Reach forth and pluck; for at a touch it yields*". That

easily plucked branch would lead him to his father's body. She continues, "...*thy friend's cold clay (his father's body) Lies unentombed. Alas! ... Unto his resting-place and sepulchre, Go, carry him!*" www.perseus.tufts.edu

The allegorical story within our ritual is a tale about a skilled worker in metals - Hiram Abiff. From there the story in our ritual departs in many ways from the historical facts presented by Josephus and Biblical sources in Second Chronicles and First Kings. Those accounts have Hiram coming from Tyre as a skilled worker in precious metals and other materials. "*he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze. He was sent, as a very skilled workman, by Hiram King of Tyre to King Solomon and did all his work*" (1 Kings 7:13-14). None of those accounts name him the project supervisor for construction of the Temple. The phrase "Did all his Work" indicates that he was not killed before he completed his work. All of those accounts indicate he completed his work and went back to Tyre. Hiram or Hiram are equivalent spellings for the same name and according to gotquestions.org, mean "Brother of the Exalted". According to Mackey Abif means "His Father" and is applied in our ritual as a title of respect signifying a teacher, a wise man, a master, or a counsellor. So, his name was Hiram and he was addressed with an additional title of respect.

Jewishencyclopedia.com has an interesting bit of perhaps ancient gossip. Apparently, Solomon and Hiram King of Tyre had a very friendly relationship in addition to the usual treaties and material exchanges between two rulers. They apparently engaged in significant friendly wagering of large sums of money on who could solve riddles which they sent back and forth to each other.

The various interpretations of the Second part of the Master Mason Degree have perhaps created

Continued on Following Page

more disagreements than any other part of our ritual. It has sometimes been portrayed as ribald- devil-try- hazing the candidate. Stories include acts, antics, stunts ,and horseplay such as: climbing a greased pole, being symbolically buried alive and abandoned in a box, Coming down to us from medieval times, we have heard of riding the goat. For the reason that in witchcraft, the goat was said to be ridden by the devil.

In a 1944 article, William Harvey www.pglfor-farshire.org cites Heckethorn's work, "The Secret Societies of all Ages and Countries". Heckethorn lists a legend held by some, that tells of Solomon's Queen becoming infatuated with Hiram. Solomon vowed to destroy this affection, and cause Hiram's ruin. To kill Hiram, Solomon selected three fellow-crafts, who hated Hiram because he had refused to raise them to the degree of masters as a result of their idleness and lack of knowledge.

For some it has been and is a particularly poignant personal spiritual experience. From Discrepancies of Freemasonry (1885) some felt it referred to the death and resurrection of Christ. Some thought it referred to Oliver Cromwell, his

supporters and the execution of King Charles. Less commonly, some felt that it referred to the sun sinking into winter at the fall equinox and returning to summer light at the spring equinox.

The meaning I thought was being illustrated, during my MM Degree, was that my Brothers would not always be able to protect me from approaching danger but would always be there to catch me and help me back onto my feet if I ever fell.

From: THE MEANING BEHIND THE MYTH OF HIRAM ABIFF BY ROBERT G. DAVIS **Winter 2014 Edition of the Journal of the Masonic Society.** Our Candidate's *"death is intended to represent another kind of death. ... The Death alludes to the death-in-life of man's old self and a rebirth or regeneration of his whole nature as a man."*

How this part of our degree Journey impacts us is determined, in part, by the tone of the ceremony as performed for us by the Degree Team. We must remember that it is Allegory, *"a simple story" that represents a more significant aspect of mankind and civilization. From this, depending upon how it is reenacted for us, we might rejuvenate our "whole nature as a Man. "*

Founding a Tradition

By Wor. Michael G. Hopkins, PM Maine Lodge of Research

There was once a city composed of two parallel streets. A holy man passed through one street and into the other. On doing so, the people noticed that his eyes were filled with tears. One person cried, "Someone has died on the other street!" Soon all the children had taken up the cry.

What really happened was that the holy man had been peeling onions.

Quickly the cry had reached the first street, and the adults of both streets were so distressed and fearful that they dared not make complete inquiries. A wise man tried to reason with people on both streets, asking why they did not question each other. Some said, "For all we know the deaths on the other street were caused by a deadly plague!"

This rumor too spread like wildfire, until the residents of both streets thought the other was doomed. Some level of order was restored, but just enough for each community to decide to emigrate to save themselves. The residents on both streets left and the city was completely abandoned.

Now, centuries later, the city is still deserted. Nearby are two villages, not that far from one another. Each village has its own tradition of its origin as a settlement from a doomed city, in remote times, from a nameless evil.

The above story, freely edited by me, is related in Tales of the Dervishes by Idries Shah (Penguin, 1970). He took the story from a Sufi teaching book by Sheikh Qalander Shah, who died in 1852. He comments that Sufi psychological teaching holds that the ordinary communication of knowledge is so subject to bias and false memory that it cannot be a substitute for direct perception of fact when such is possible. —M.Hopkins

Cornerstone Lodge #216 Boosts Westbrook Football

On Saturday September 17th, 2022, Corner Stone Lodge #216, with the Westbrook High School Football Boosters, served a pancake breakfast fundraiser to support their team. Led in the kitchen by Wor. Bro. Mike Chambers, it was a very successful all you can eat, pancake, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice breakfast! Helping in the kitchen was newly elected candidate Mark Tanner, RW Ben Weisner, & RW Jonathan Rosen. Brother Alex Stone, owner of Blazes Burgers in Westbrook and a member of Saccarappa Lodge, donated many breakfast items. With the help of a youth activities matching grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, we were able to raise well over \$3,000 to support the team!



Breaking the Ice

By Bro. Ed Tooma
Rising Virtue #10, Bangor

During my travels from one institution to another to give talks, I sometimes encounter a strange reception. I remember one time very vividly when I entered the Lodge, everyone seemed to be of the starched collar generation. You know, not very friendly. I thought for a moment - what am I to do? The first thing that came to mind was to overlook the stares and go directly to the Worshipful Master and introduce myself. And then, do likewise to as many of those stiff-collared Masons as I could. In doing so, I proudly introduced myself and told them where I hail from, the name of my lodge, and my purpose for visiting. I was now beginning to feel somewhat more relaxed.

I call this breaking the ice. I found that these fellas

aren't as straight-laced as they pretended to be. It's more or less a facade, but it can be scary. I tell you this because it might happen to you.

Once the lodge opened, I was then invited to give my talk for the evening. My program was entitled "Working Together As A Team To Spread More Light." As I was walking to the podium, I felt all eyes watching me, but I kept telling myself - I need for this performance to be my best.

Then I remembered what our late brother Norman Vincent Peale said. "You Can If You Think You Can". Oh, how happy I was when I finished my talk - not one mistake. And what a nice round of applause I received. You can do likewise. Just prepare yourself for the unexpected, and do not let any barrier hold you back from giving it your best shot, regardless of where it might be.

So next time you are invited to give a talk at a Lodge you have never stepped foot in - Break The Ice!

Drummond Lodge #118 Has a Summer to Remember

by RW Bro. Mike Tremblay

Drummond Lodge #118 of North Parsonsfield had a summer to remember.

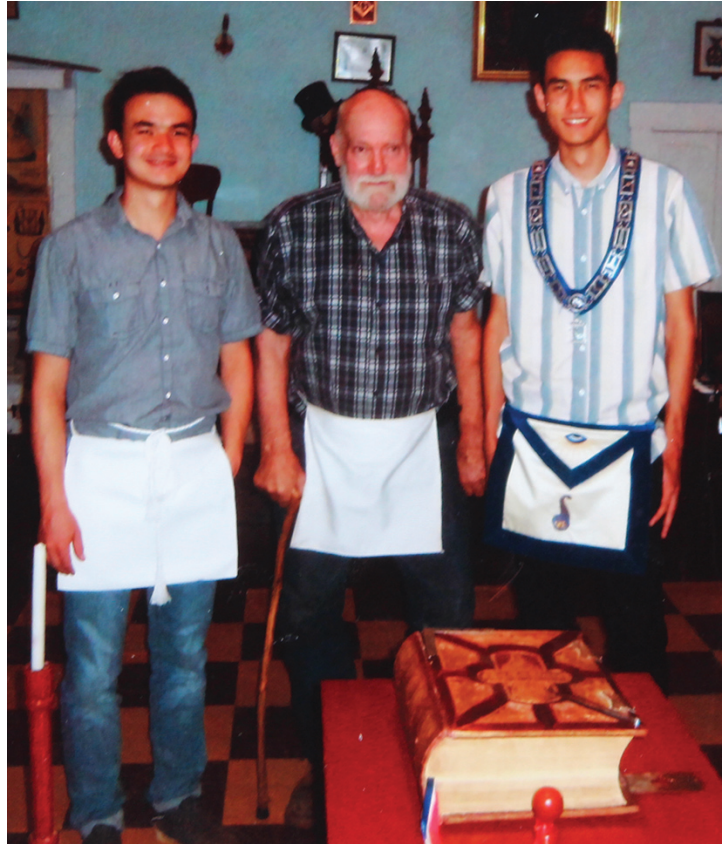
It started on July 29 when lodge brethren traveled to Portsmouth, NH to conduct a Master Mason Degree for brother Kyle Fairfield at the famous Pitt Tavern in historic Strawberry Banke where the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was formed in 1789.

Two member of the New Hampshire Grand Lodge welcomed the Drummond Lodge brethren, and all present enjoyed the degree conferred by Drummond Lodge under the direction of Master Wor. Kyle Baker.

The second big event took place on August 4, when R.W. Brother Joseph Morrill was presented his second star signifying 60 years as a Master Mason, an honor also achieved by his father and grandfather. In addition to serving as Master of Drummond Lodge, Brother Morrill also served as District Deputy of the 18th Masonic District. Brother Joe is acclaimed far and wide as a true Mason and dedicated mentor.

The third and final summer event occurred on August 22 when Brother Parker Fairfield, Jr. was raised to the sublime degree, joining his blood brother, Kyle, as a Masonic brother. Their father Parker Fairfield, Sr., is Secretary of Drummond Lodge, and a proud dad indeed.

Great things are happening in Maine Masonry and Drummond Lodge is a prime example.



Drummond Lodge brethren, left to right: Parker Fairfield, Jr., Joseph Morrill, Kyle Fairfield.

St. Croix Lodge #46 Honors Veteran Masons



At the November Stated Meeting of St. Croix Lodge of Calais, Wor. Bro. Ralph Mahar received his 65 year star, left photo, which was pinned on him by his son, Bro. Dennis Mahar. In the photo at right, Wor. Bro. Douglas M. Pottle receives his 50 Year Medal and pin from Wor. Jim Myers, lodge Master. Both were presented a lodge blanket and a Master's Wage token, as well. A great ovation was given in honor of their years of service to the lodge.

Photos by RW S. Johnson



ABOUT VIRTUES: Discussions at MMC Convocation

by *Wor. Bro. Dannell H. Starbird*
Abner Wade #207

The October 1, 2022 convocation of the Maine Masonic College was an exceptional day of useful ideas, higher thoughts, and insightful perspectives about the role of virtue in the lives of individual Masons.

Representing the College, R.W. George MacDougall opened the meeting and proposed that learning opportunities plant ideas much like seeds, in the lives of people who attend classes. They incorporate ideas presented, expand those, develop their own concepts from them, and grow their own views of life based on what they learn. He introduced M.W. Daniel E. Bartlett, Grand Master of Masons in Maine, who offered a welcome to the meeting, and supportive comments concerning the Masonic College. He said that educating ourselves is a major expectation of Freemasons. M.W. opined “We are players in an infinite game, which goes on because of us, and will go on without us”. His comments made clear that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Introductory remarks from M.W. Dr. Walter MacDougall, Dean Emeritus of the College, began with the question “What does the world need from Freemasonry?”. His proposed answer was “a civilization of the mind”, which was described as sorely lacking in today’s world. M.W. MacDougall said that many influences create the “civilization of the mind” such as family, social, and cultural learning, formal and informal education, life stressors, and the consequences of choices among other things. The role Masons play in each other’s lives, by living and exemplifying the virtues facilitate positive character development, which is descriptive of promoting “a civilization of the mind”.

M.W. Claire Tusch, PGM, served as the Master of Ceremony for the remainder of the day. His injunction was “We have a job to do; spread the light!” He introduced Bro. Jeff member of the Supreme Counsel, who explored concepts surrounding virtues as put forward in Scottish Rite Masonry. Bro. Simonton observed that we don’t see virtues

exercised in society as much as we used to. His description of the virtues pointed to how we may live out Masonic beliefs.

Concerning **duty** as a virtue, he said we need to do what we must, and reason allows us to know what to do. While reason can be seen as in opposition to emotion, they need not be mutually exclusive. Reason allows us to restrict our emotional expression in fulfilling our duties. We should strive to toil in a morally positive direction. Hard work and honesty are virtues that allow us to do a quality job. This contributes to a fair relationship in an employment situation. As we put ourselves in the place of others by doing an honest day’s work for an honest day’s wage, we practice the virtues of **truthfulness** and **charity**. The virtuous worker does his duty, takes the time to do the job right, and provides quality even if there could be shortcuts (which he avoids).

The virtue of **justice** involves judging in conformity with the law. **It embraces fairness, equitability, correctness, preciseness, charity,** and avoiding the influences of interests, favor, or prejudice. The just man uses moral judgment. He does not impose his will on others. Those who are called to judge are expected to impose the same, equal judgment on all who behave in a criminal manner, equally. While punishment or consequences should be the same for everyone, extenuating circumstances require **compassion** and **charity**.

Viewing Freemasonry as a form of **education**, Bro. Simonton suggested that older, more experienced Masons demonstrate the application of virtues, and thus teach these virtues to newer Masons by example. We learn by practice, following instruction, and from observing the virtuous behavior of the more informed brother.

Masonry gives brothers a chance to grow, develop talents, increase excellence, make progress, and gain increasing self-esteem. Virtuously studying and learning what to do, and doing it with excellence, produces a result of which we can be rightly proud. Those who do what they do well are thereby demonstrating a moral principle. We learn responsibility because we have seen it in others.

While perfection is not of this world, it is nonetheless an honorable aspiration to strive, in **humil-**

Continued on Following Page

ity for an approximation of perfection. Without considering ourselves above others, we seek to improve ourselves, and gain self-respect that, in itself, can show the consequences of a life devoted to virtuous conduct.

Bro. Shawn Eyer is Director of Education and Special Projects at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. He is an expert about Masonic history and symbolism. His presentation particularly focused on the entered apprentice degree as a plan for moral improvement, with particular attention to the cardinal virtues (**temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice**) and the theological virtues (**faith, hope and charity**). He proposed that a wealth of symbolism in the entered apprentice degree can be revisited over a lifetime, yielding deeper and deeper understanding of the social and divine moral framework of Masonry. He says that the system of morality within Masonry slowly unfolds its beauties to the **diligent enquirer**. Understanding the meanings of Masonic ritual takes a sincere effort to absorb embodied morality. While understanding requires diligent and persistent study, it increases our capacity to live by the social and moral virtues of an honorable and well-lived life.

The third presenter, R.W. Eric Kuntz MD, is a psychiatrist, active and frequent presenter in the Maine Masonic College, and an expert on symbolism. He presented a developmental perspective on virtues, in which he says a slow and progressive accumulation of knowledge grows with frequent repetition, and with subtle differences added over time. He points out that the age (or developmental stage) at which a particular virtue is learned will have everything to do with a person's depth of understanding of that virtue. In his overview Bro. Kuntz pointed out that there are many virtues beyond those codified as cardinal/theological virtues.

He mentions, for example the **nine noble virtues** which include **courage, truth, honor, fidelity, discipline, hospitality, self reliance, industriousness and perseverance**. Considering virtues in general, (meaning moral excellence), opinions will vary he says concerning the specific meaning and associated actions attached to any particular virtue. If there is a common understanding of a particular virtue such as justice, some may favor a more strict emphasis on punishment while others may emphasize **charity** or **compassion**. Different people see different shades of meaning in each virtue. Our unique understanding relies upon grasping the symbolic representations and life experiences that are descriptive of a particular virtue.

Dr. Kuntz introduced the concept of transpersonal psychology in his developmental model. In

developing our understanding of existence, including the virtues, individuals begin at what is called a **pre-personal** level of understanding. At this level we are not aware that our actions are expressing virtues, but are based on rote learning and imitation. As we develop, we arrive at a **personal** level of functioning, where we operate by rules that are concretely organized around the benefits and consequences **to us** of virtuous choices, which allow us to avoid censure or reproach. The third and highest level of ethical development is **transpersonal** understanding.

It's not just about me, it's about all of which I am a part of. Virtuous choices benefit us all, not just me. Overall, the developmental process is described as going from early specific imitative learning to discovering that symbols have meaning at a deeper level, to ultimately taking into account that every human being has a claim on my good offices.

In summary, the foregoing seems to tell us that Freemasonry is an educational process of learning, teaching, and living virtues embedded in a symbolic network of moral wisdom. We make progress through hard work, right living, determination, purpose, and attention to detail. Masonry can thus be seen as facilitating a gradually deepening moral progression of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Lynde Lodge Serving

Continued from Back Cover

The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation has been a great support to the Thanksgiving Dinner program. Although the total meal output has not quite returned to the pre-Covid levels (almost 450 this year compared to well over 500 in the past), it's growing back. Huge commercial-size trays of food left over from feeding those who shared the day in Hermon or with the food from there at their homes, were delivered that afternoon to the Bangor Homeless Shelter where they are very gratefully received. Nothing goes to waste.

Earlier I mentioned that this project had long-term positive effects: that new Junior Steward is now the current Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maine, Rt. Wor. Audie Gould who is quick to share the credit to the many members and community volunteers (especially his wife Roxanne) without whom this would never have become what it is today. He will remind everyone, though, that there's nothing special to this: ANY lodge can do something similar. Commitment and caring can produce great results!

Story by Ed King, PM

QUESTION

How Can I Keep My Passions Within Due Bounds If I Don't Know What the Boundary Lines Are?

By Bro. Charles Plummer

A favorite song of mine by Lee Ann Womack which was popular was titled "I Hope You Dance." The first line was "I hope you never lose your sense of Wonder." In all honesty, I have never lost my sense of wonder since the day I was born in 1934, and I have no intention of doing so. Also, I have danced my way through life during the good times and the bad which has also made it a meaningful and rewarding one for me and I will continue to do so. Also, I have not lost my sense of wonder about our Masonic Ritual and the moral principles that it teaches.

While I was preparing an L.A. Senior College course that I will be teaching next semester titled "An introduction to Human Emotions" the phrase "keep your emotions in due bounds" and that part of my personality style that is the letter I, which stands for intuition, came into play. I started thinking that there is a strong relationship between passions and emotions and I was not wrong. I looked up the meaning of the word passion and a key one is "intense emotions compelling actions that are stirring or ungovernable." I would add that the words "negative emotions" have been described as "any feeling which causes you to be miserable and can make you dislike yourself and others, and reduce your confidence in self-esteem."

Thus keeping our passions in due bounds is a reminder that we should not let our negative emotions run wild because that will lead to practicing ungovernable and immoral acts when associating with others in a variety of situations. Thus practicing self-awareness as it relates to how we express our emotions plays a very important role in practicing civility as a Freemason and we need to define our boundary lines so that we do not cross over them. As it relates to expressing emotions in positive ways, a smile, warm greetings, handshake, listening attentively when others are speaking and paying attention to what they are saying work very effectively. The word civility is a noun Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines as "a polite act or expression in which one is being polite and courteous when interacting with others whereas the word civil, which is an adjective, means possessing the ability to be courteous and polite when interacting with others.

Studies carried out by Neurologists, Physiologists, Cognitive Scientists, Anthropologists, Economists, Psychiatrists and Psychologists have identified two factors that play an important role in the practice of civility when associating with others in a variety of settings.

First, one must have a positive self-image, have self-esteem, and positive feelings of self-worth. If he or she doesn't, they will have the tendency to project their own inadequacies onto those whose beliefs may differ from their own and reach with anger, insults, sarcasm, and physical force. The second factor is that one must be aware of his preferred learning and personality styles that are associated with each, and the ability to recognize them in others. These play a role in the practice of self-awareness.

Self-awareness is a demonstration of one's ability to accurately assess one's own strengths and limitations with a well-grounded sense of confidence and optimism, and a growth mindset along with knowing one's internal states, preferences, resources and intuitions. It also leads to self-responsibility and that goes a long way to support positive behaviors and positive interpersonal relationships which will also have a positive impact on your personal life. An activity for practicing self-awareness that has proven to be very good is to keep a journal and write down positive things that made you feel good, and some of the things you have said and done, or emotions you have expressed, that you do not feel good about. A journal can be kept on a daily basis, a weekly basis, or you can determine your own time line for doing so. You can then use your journal to identify areas of behavior that need improving and identify new boundary lines for keeping your passions in due-bounds.

It is important to keep in mind that the social function of emotions allow us to interact with others in a way that leads to adaptive outcomes for ourselves and others. These functions are crucial in creating and maintaining social bounds and in dealing with and repairing the rupture of those bonds. In the final analysis, you are the one who needs to establish rules for expressing your emotions in the game of life and keeping your passions in due-bounds. Also, you must become your own referee and call the penalties when your passions are not in bounds.

I gave a lot of thought and consideration to the writing of this article and I realize that I have given you, the reader, much to think about. Because I do believe that keeping our passions in due-bounds plays an important role in making a man a better person which is the goal of Freemasonry, I also believe that it is worthy of consideration to provide instruction to a candidate I terms of what that expression means, and strategies for doing so. Having stated that, may your cup runneth over with the positive things that others have bestowed upon you and what you have bestowed upon others. So may and mote it be.

**Mid Coast Past Masters Association
Annual Meeting
to confer the Past Master's Degree**

Rockport Masonic Center

361 Main St, Rockport, ME 04856

Saturday, January 7, 2023

11 a.m. Registration, 12 Noon Dinner, 1 p.m. Work

All Current and Past Masters are eligible to take the degree

Any Current or Past Master who has already taken the degree is invited to attend

Come on out and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship

Lunch provided by Federal Lodge #6

Annual Dues are \$5.00

Meal: Donations

**Charge for the Degree is \$5.00 which includes
the 1 year membership**

Secretary: Kenneth Allen

papaandnana29@gmail.com

207-596-0498

PO Box E, Rockland, ME 04841

For Reservations and Pre-Registration Please Contact the Secretary

District 16 Masons Helping a Brother's Widow



A work party came together on September 25th when members of Oxford Lodge #18, Norway, and Paris Lodge #94 met and together cut, split and delivered two cords of firewood to the family of Wor. Karl Furtardo. A big thank you to R.W. Bro. Ryan Kane and Bro. Scott Session for your generosity.



On October 15th brothers from Delta Lodge #153, Lovell, and Paris Lodge #94 came together at the home of Wor. Karl Furtardo's family. The group worked together winterizing the home, stacking three cords of firewood and cleaning up. It was nice to be able to help the Furtados, all the time spending time together swapping stories and laughing.



The Past Masters of York Lodge #22, Kennebunk, gathered September 26 to work the Master Mason Degree on Brother Alexander (Xander) Spooner, pictured here just right of lodge Master Mike Hopkins. Bro. Spooner was raised by his grandfather, Wor. Brother Richard Russell, fourth from left in photo. who served the lodge as Worshipful Master 56 years ago in 1966.

Shadow of the Apostles and Gandhi

The shadow of a man is always good or evil; it never is neutral. It either helps or hurts, builds up or tears down, blesses or curses. One's influence is either a stepping stone or a stumbling block.

Some assume that in moral and spiritual matters they can be neutral. The plain truth is that if a man does not champion what is right, he thereby throws his weight on the side of wrong by silently condoning it.

Power to lift and to heal never comes from a person who is always thinking of the impression he is making, always trying to appear as something other than what he really is.

A man's influence depends far more upon what he is than upon what he has. Much more important than genius, or riches, or cleverness is the healing shadow of a good life.

Every Masonic temple and every Mason is dedicated to God, to Freemasonry, to virtue and universal benevolence. What a blessing our great fraternity would be to a broken and bleeding world if our lives were wholly dedicated to these things.

God grant that your shadow may be a healing and helpful one.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 37 MAIN STREET, CORNISH, ME

The church has been a tourist attraction since 1843 because of its beautiful steeple...

There have been many repairs made over the years. In 2019 we had a complete evaluation done by an engineer and received a 37 page report explaining what needs to be done, a complete restoration.

In November 2020 the estimated figure was \$153,000. We are going to make an effort to raise \$250,000 for our goal by September of 2022. The reason for setting this higher goal is because of the inflated prices of building materials since 2019.

We know this will not be easy.

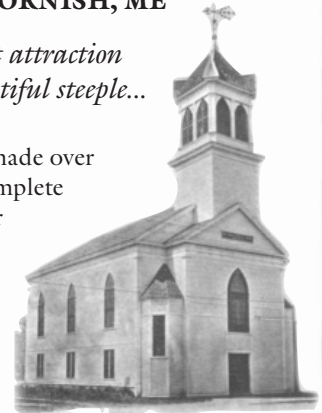
It was suggested that maybe if we could get just \$1.00 from each person willing to help, that figure would be amazing by itself. The first part of the goal is to get to \$60,000 for a matching grant from the State Grant fund. We will keep the Faith and see what the Good Lord allows us to receive.

If you wish to donate or would like more information, our address is:

Cornish United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 235, Cornish, ME 04020

Please mark donation for *Church Steeple Fund*.

- IN FAITH -
Fundraising Chair, Merle Googins

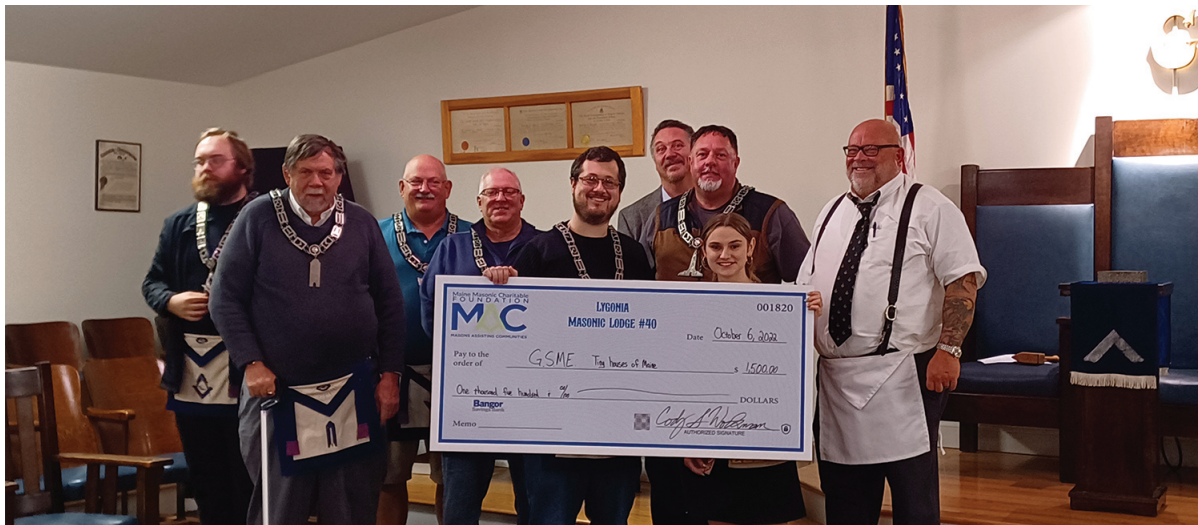


Durham Lodge Masonettes



Acacia Lodge #121 of Durham, Maine has a Bean Supper every second Saturday from April to October for the local community. These four ladies assist in helping to serve the meals and their assistance is greatly appreciated. Normal attendance is around 80 people for the meals with part of the money raised being used for scholarships and general assistance to the community. Pictured, left to right: Linda Bowie, Sandra Hilton, Kendra O'Connell and Judy Mills.

Lygonia Lodge Brethren Support Tiny Homes Project



The brethren of Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth, present a check for \$1500 to the Tiny Homes Project which helps homeless female veterans receive a home to help them get back on their feet. The homes get passed on to other female veterans as need arises. Girl Scout Kasey Jordan, pictured here holding one end of the check, has raised over \$50,000. Work is beginning this Fall.

Paris Lodge Families Having Fun



On Aug. 12th, Paris Lodge #94 had its Second Annual Family Cookout Day. It was attended by more than 40 people and great times and food happened. This is a wonderful morale booster and helps all brethren become even closer in our friendships.



Mt. Olivet Lodge, Washington, Supports Disabled veterans

With a two to one matching grant from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation Mt. Olivet Lodge had the pleasure of presenting a \$1200 check to Salute of Service. This non-profit 501c organization has identified the need to provide and train service animals for disabled veterans. If the veteran cannot afford a service animal, Salute of Service will purchase the animal for the veteran. For additional information, visit Salute of Service Facebook.com. Pictured here, l-r: SW Barry Peabody, Marie Carey, Ron Carey (Board member/trainer) and his service dog Leona, VW Bill Mitchell, PM of Mt. Olivet, and his service dog Andy



The MAINE MASON

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Lynde Lodge Serving Humanity . . . and Good Food

Long-serving Masons believe strongly in the power of meals. All jokes about ‘belly Masons’ aside, feeding the lodge is not only a great way to bring unity and harmony to the group but also provides an exceptional way to ‘set the craft at work’ (especially the newest members, giving them a sense of purpose and an opportunity to be a part of something right away) and create a bond amongst the Brethren.

Some fifteen years ago, a new Junior Steward spoke up during a discussion at Lynde Lodge in Hermon (just outside of Bangor) and suggested that they sponsor a Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. Turkey, stuffing, veggies, desert: the whole thing! He’d had a lot of experience cooking in small spaces for hungry men from his years serving meals to railroad workmen for a week at a time in the Northern Maine woods. That idea grew and grew to the great bond between lodge and community that exists today.

One of the earliest decisions made was that the meal would be free to all. Completely and without any acceptance of payment whatsoever. No “Donations Welcome” signs ever! Regularly people will attempt to

press money, in small or large amounts, into the hands of the many volunteers and all will be politely refused. “It’s what we do!” is the simple reply – and thus town comes together in a spirit of sharing. Everyone is welcome and if someone is unable to get to them, a battalion of volunteer drivers will take the meals to anyone in the area.

When Covid struck, the lodge decided to do a summer of meals and Saturday nights hot take-out family-friendly meals were made available for all. What’s next? Who knows but one thing is for certain: Lynde Lodge is active and growing, encouraging the Rookie program for all of its many new members and providing the opportunity for them to work together on community projects like the Thanksgiving dinner which will build their long-lasting bonds of friendship and fellowship amongst their brethren.

Continued on Page 29

